

IN THE CLAIMS:

26. (Twice amended) A cosmetic composition, comprising a cosmetically acceptable carrier containing:

(a) at least one fixing film-forming polymer which is a branched block copolymer consisting essentially of, as principal monomers, (1) at least one monomer selected from the group consisting of C_{1-20} alkyl acrylate, N-mono-(C_{2-12}) alkylacrylamide, N-mono-(C_{2-12}) alkylmethacrylamide, N,N-di-(C_{2-12}) alkylacrylamide and N, N-di-(C_{2-12}) alkylmethacrylamide, and (2) at least one monomer selected from the group consisting of acrylic acid, methacrylic acid, and acrylic and methacrylic acids, the polymer having a structure comprising hydrophobic blocks onto which more hydrophilic blocks are attached via bi-functional units,

(b) at least one thickening agent which is a cross-linked or non-cross-linked homopolymer or copolymer based on acrylic acid or methacrylic acid or acrylic and methacrylic acid, and

(c) at least one co-thickening agent which is a non-cellulosic thickening polymer different from thickening agent (b).

Cancel claim 36 without prejudice or disclaimer.

39. (Amended) A method for the styling and fixing of hair, comprising applying to the hair a cosmetic composition comprising a cosmetically acceptable carrier containing:

(a) at least one fixing film-forming polymer which is a branched block copolymer consisting essentially of, as principal monomers, (1) at least one monomer selected from the group consisting of C_{1-20} alkyl acrylate, N-mono-(C_{2-12}) alkylacrylamide, N-mono-(C_{2-12}) alkylmethacrylamide, N,N-di-(C_{2-12}) alkylacrylamide and N,N-di-(C_{2-12}) alkylmethacrylamide, and (2) at least one monomer selected from the group consisting of acrylic acid, methacrylic acid, and acrylic and methacrylic acids, the polymer having a structure comprising hydrophobic blocks onto which more hydrophilic blocks are attached via bi-functional units,

(b) at least one thickening agent which is a homopolymer or copolymer based on acrylic acid or methacrylic acid or acrylic and methacrylic acid which is cross-linked or non-cross-linked, and

(c) at least one co-thickening agent which is a non-cellulosic thickening polymer different from thickening agent (b), wherein the composition has a viscosity of at least about 1.9 Pa.s.

Cancel claim 40 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Add the following new claims:

41. (New) A cosmetic composition, comprising a cosmetically acceptable carrier containing:

(a) at least one fixing film-forming polymer which is a branched block copolymer consisting essentially of, as principal monomers, (1) at least one monomer selected from the group consisting of C₁₋₂₀ alkyl acrylate, N-mono-(C₂₋₁₂) alkylacrylamide, N-mono-(C₂₋₁₂) alkylmethacrylamide, N,N-di-(C₂₋₁₂) alkylacrylamide and N, N-di-(C₂₋₁₂) alkylmethacrylamide, and (2) at least one monomer selected from the group consisting of acrylic acid, methacrylic acid, and acrylic and methacrylic acids, the polymer having a structure comprising hydrophobic blocks onto which more hydrophilic blocks are attached via bi-functional units,

(b) at least one thickening agent which is a cross-linked or non-cross-linked homopolymer or copolymer based on acrylic acid or methacrylic acid or acrylic and methacrylic acid, and

(c) at least one co-thickening agent which is guar gum, wherein the composition has a viscosity of at least about 1.9 Pa.s.

42. (New) The cosmetic composition according to claim 41, wherein:

(a) said at least one fixing film-forming polymer is a branched block copolymer consisting essentially of, as principal monomers, n-butyl acrylate, acrylic acid, methacrylic acid, and allyl methacrylate as a bifunctional monomer, and

(b) said at least one thickening agent is a cross-linked homopolymer based on acrylic acid.

43. (New) The cosmetic composition according to claim 42, wherein the concentration of fixing film-forming polymer is between 0.1 and 10% by weight relative to the total weight of the

composition, the concentration of thickening agent (b) is between 0.1 and 3% by weight relative to the total weight of the composition, and the concentration of the co-thickening agent (c) is between 0.05 and 2% by weight relative to the total weight of the composition.

44. (New) The cosmetic composition according to claim 42, wherein the concentration of fixing film-forming polymer is between 0.1 and 10% by weight relative to the total weight of the composition, the concentration of thickening agent (b) is between 0.2 and 2% by weight relative to the total weight of the composition, and the concentration of the co-thickening agent (c) is between 0.1 and 1% by weight relative to the total weight of the composition.

45. (New) The method for the styling and fixing of hair, comprising applying to the hair a cosmetic composition comprising a cosmetically acceptable carrier containing:

(a) at least one fixing film-forming polymer which is a branched block copolymer consisting essentially of, as principal monomers, (1) at least one monomer selected from the group consisting of C_{1-20} alkyl acrylate, N-mono-(C_{2-12}) alkylacrylamide, N-mono-(C_{2-12}) alkylmethacrylamide, N,N-di-(C_{2-12}) alkylacrylamide and N,N-di-(C_{2-12}) alkylmethacrylamide, and (2) at least one monomer selected from the group consisting of acrylic acid, methacrylic acid, and acrylic and methacrylic acids, the polymer having a structure comprising hydrophobic blocks onto which more hydrophilic blocks are attached via bi-functional units,

(b) at least one thickening agent which is a homopolymer or copolymer based on acrylic acid or methacrylic acid or acrylic and methacrylic acid which is cross-linked or non-cross-linked, and

(c) at least one co-thickening agent which is guar gum, wherein the composition has a viscosity of at least about 1.9 Pa.s.

46. (New) The method according to claim 45, wherein:

(a) said at least one fixing film-forming polymer is a branched block copolymer consisting essentially of, as principal monomers, n-butyl acrylate, acrylic acid, methacrylic acid, and allyl methacrylate as a bifunctional monomer, and

(b) said at least one thickening agent is a cross-linked homopolymer based on acrylic acid.

47. (New) The method according to claim 46, wherein the concentration of fixing film-forming polymer is between 0.1 and 10% by weight relative to the total weight of the composition, the concentration of thickening agent (b) is between 0.1 and 3% by weight relative to the total weight of the composition, and the concentration of the co-thickening agent (c) is between 0.05 and 2% by weight relative to the total weight of the composition.

48. (New) The method according to claim 46, wherein the concentration of fixing film-forming polymer is between 0.1 and 10% by weight relative to the total weight of the composition, the concentration of thickening agent (b) is between 0.2 and 2% by weight relative to the total weight of the composition, and the concentration of the co-thickening agent (c) is between 0.1 and 1% by weight relative to the total weight of the composition.--